

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Prior to the amendments herein, claims 1-39 were pending in this application. By these amendments, Applicants have amended claim 1, canceled claims 2-39, and presented new claims 40-43. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claim Objections

Claims 32 and 36 were objected to on page 2 of the Office Action. These claims have been canceled. These objections are therefore moot.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-15, 17-34, and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,983,846 to Rios et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,906,100 to Rice et al. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rios in view of Rice and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,760,407 to Margosiak et al. Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rios in view of Rice and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,814,939 to Parker et al.

With respect to the rejection of Applicants' independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection. None of the references cited, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 1. With respect to the rejections of claims 2-39, these rejections are moot since Applicants have cancelled these claims.

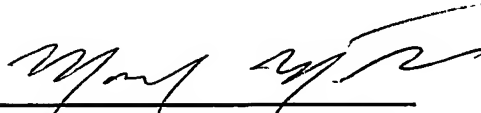
Fee Authorization

Please charge any fee required with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1448, Reference ISA-027.01.

PATENTS
Serial No.: 10/500,186
Confirmation No.: 5307
Attorney Docket No. ISA-027.01
28016; Unipath ref. IM0069

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 20, 2006
Customer No: 25181
Patent Group
Foley Hoag LLP
155 Seaport Blvd.
Boston, MA 02210-2600



Mark A. Miller, Reg. No. 58,234
Attorney for Applicants
Tel. No. (617) 832-1000
Fax. No. (617) 832-7000